

UNCLASSIFIED

February 14, 1962

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NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 128

TO: The Secretary of State

(SUBJECT: Response to Soviet Action Regarding Air Corridors)

The President has approved the recommendations in your memorandum of February 14th on Response to Soviet Action Regarding Air Corridors. Since there has been a little confusion in the White House with respect to the precise meaning of your recommendations, I wish to restate what the President understands that he has approved, as follows:

1. That the State Department is authorized to seek Ambassadorial Group agreement to delegate to General Norstad authority

(a) to urge the civil airlines to fly over 10,000 feet if the Soviets seek by declaration to prevent all flights below 10,000 feet, and if, as a result, the civil airlines are unwilling to fly below that limit; and

(b) to fly civil aircraft (initially without passengers) with military pilots over 10,000 feet, if the civil airlines decline to fly either above or below 10,000 feet. (General Norstad already has authority also to fly civil aircraft with military crews below 10,000 feet, if the civil airlines decline to do so.)

2. That U.S. approval of this authority is being communicated to General Norstad, although his exercise of the authority will be dependent upon [REDACTED]

/s/ McGeorge Bundy

cc: The Secretary of Defense
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director of Central Intelligence
Chairman, Civil Aeronautics Board
General Maxwell Taylor

CC: Mrs. Lincoln
Mr. Bundy ✓
B. Smith/C. Johnson
NSC Files

Partially Declassified/Released on 9/25/91
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by S. Tiley, National Security Council

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